Promotion of Area Resources Centres, 52 Miami Apartment, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay, during 1985-86 for prohibition and drug abuse control;

(b) if so what were the activities of this organisation in prohibition and drug abuse control during 1985-86; and

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The organisation was engaged *inter alia* in field studies under the survey project which requires to cover 8 cities and prepare profiles of drug dependents and study, the progress of counselling, treatment, prevention and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

(c) The survey project not having been completed yet, no assessment has been made so far.

Benefits to Rural People under the IRDP Scheme

*512. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what real benefits have accrued to the poor rural people under the IRDP scheme in the last three years;

(b) whether the subsidy under the Scheme (IRDP) is being properly utilised; and

(c) whether a portion of the benefits which would have accrued to the IRDP beneficiaries is going to the middlemen, viz. suppliers of assets appointed by the Rural Development Agencies, if so, whether Government propose to disburse cash to the IRDP beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in 1985-86, 1986-87 and till October in 1987-88, 30.61 lakh, 37.47 lakh and 15.29 lakh families respectively have been assisted.

The Concurrent Evaluation Report of IRDP for the period October, 1985 to September, 1986 shows that the assets generated incremental income of more than Rs. 2000 in 26 per cent cases. Such increase was between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 2000 in about 24 per cent cases and between Rs. 501 and Rs. 1000 in about 15 per cent cases. The additional income generated was up to Rs. 500 in about 11 per cent cases.

By and large, the subsidy under IRDP is being properly utilised. This is the inference drawn from the Concurrent Evaluation. The incremental income derived by the families from the assets have already been indicated above. The Concurrent Evaluation also indicates that in about 71 per cent cases of old beneficiaries the assets were found intact. Among the remaining cases, the assets were not intact due to a variety of reasons which include unexpected events like illness, deaths, relatively lower income generation by asset, defective condition of asset etc.

In order to ensure that benefits are not usurped by the middlemen, Purchase Committees are set up, comprising of the beneficiary, a representative each of the Agency, the financing institution and the concerned Department. Further, the assets are marked or branded to check the misutilisation or transfer of the assets.

Moreover, since 1.4.1986 the Government, as recommended by a study Group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has introduced a system of cash disbursement of subsidy and loan in 22 selected blocks in the country on an experimental basis. Since the scheme is yet to stabilise in

the existing 22 blocks its performance needs to be watched before the question of its extension can be taken up.

Lifting of Palmolien Oil by Kerala Supplies Corporation

*513. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation has been asked by the Central Government to lift their quota of Palmolien oil from the Mangalore Port instead of from Cochin which is the nearest available port;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for taking such a decision; and

(c) whether the road transport charges from Mangalore to Cochin is to be borne by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Kerala Government has been asked to lift its allocation of imported edible oils from Mangalore which is the regular depot of the STC for that State. Keeping in view the present high allocation, they can be permitted to take delivery of imported edible oils from ships at Cochin in case they are able to arrange suitable storage at the port.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Newsmen accompanying the Prime Minister on Foreign Tours

*514. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1362 given in the Rajya Sabhas on the 20th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'the Indian Post' dated the October 17, 1987 to the effect that the Government of India had flouted all the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India on October 5, 1987 in this regard;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to follow the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India in this regard; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government have seen the news item. It speaks of alleged discrimination in selecting the journalists accompanying the PM on his foreign tours and also refers to the guidelines issued by the Press Council for selection of journalists for official visits

(c) and (d) The Government have brought these guidelines to the notice of the concerned organisations. The principal criterion for selecting the journalists is to obtain best possible coverage in the print/electronic media. Due weightage is given to persons with expertise in covering the PM's engagements and the interest of representation to regions and languages.

Terrace Agriculture

*515. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to end Jhum (shifting cultivation) and popularise terrace agriculture to save forests; and